

September 26, 2022

The Honorable Nancy P. Pelosi Speaker of the House U.S. House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank J. Pallone Jr. Chairman Committee on Energy and Commerce U.S. House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515 The Honorable Kevin O. McCarthy Minority Leader U.S. House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Cathy A. McMorris Rodgers Ranking Member Committee on Energy and Commerce U.S. House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Madam Speaker, Mr. Chairman, and Representatives McCarthy and McMorris Rodgers,

We are writing on behalf of the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) and the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) to raise our serious concerns with current provisions in H.R. 8152, the "American Data Privacy Protection Act." Our organizations strongly support data privacy for all Americans. It is particularly critical to the safety of our officers whose personal information, if compromised, could put them and their families in jeopardy. However, we must be sure that we protect this personal data without negatively impacting the ability of law enforcement to conduct routine investigations.

Consumer data privacy protections are very important in this digital age, but in protecting personal data from unauthorized or unlawful access, we must be sure not to make it more difficult for law enforcement to conduct criminal investigations by accessing publicly available information from private sector entities who want to cooperate with law enforcement and voluntarily share information to assist in criminal investigations.

There are provisions in the bill as introduced that will negatively impact investigations by law enforcement and render many of the common tools these agencies currently use unavailable or too limited. Law enforcement agencies pursuing investigations into violent crimes like human trafficking, child exploitation, kidnapping, or threats of mass violence need these tools to generate leads and prevent potential harm to our citizens. For example, in the early hours following an abduction, access to publicly available data and the tools to quickly and efficiently search for this information is of the utmost importance to avoid tragic outcomes.

We live in a world of digital data and all of our lives are increasingly intertwined as we interact in publicly available virtual space. Because of this, law enforcement officers must be able to obtain publicly available information quickly and lawfully in order to protect the public, rescue victims, solve crimes, and prevent

criminal actors form escaping justice. This legislation, as currently drafted, would jeopardize law enforcement's ability to do its job and it will put lives at risk.

On behalf of the members of the FOP and the IACP, the largest and most prominent labor and management law enforcement organizations in the country, we urge the House to work with law enforcement and public safety-oriented stakeholders to make the necessary changes to the legislation in order to preserve our ability to conduct effective investigations and protect our personal data.

Sincerely,

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Patrick Yoes National FOP President

Chief Dwight Henninger IACP President